SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some multi-national companies are seeking permission to set up dairy industries in the country;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the dairy industries are likely to be affected as a result of entry of these companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard our industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir. There is no pending proposal for foreign collaboration either from any foreign company or an Indian applicant.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Special Aircraft for VIPS

6801. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times special aircraft have been used by the members of the Union Cabinet, excluding Prime Minister for domestic visits during the last six months;

(b) the names of the ministers given permission for the use of special aircraft; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M JACOB): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Drilling of Oil and Gas wells on coast of Bay of Bengal

6802. DR. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil and gas wells drilled under PY2 offshore at Portonova on the Coast of Bay of Bengal, and

(b) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). One well on PY-2 structure was drilled which proved to be dry.

Production of Paddy Varieties

6803. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of paddy grown in the country at present;

(b) the yield per acre of these varieties; and

(c) the varieties of paddy which have successful in increasing the production of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The varieties of paddy grown in the country at present can be classified as under:

(i) local/traditional paddy varieties.